deep seabed mining technology for exploitation of polymetallic nodules, establishing the process technology with Russian Federation Committee on Geology and Use of Mineral Resources. As a follow-up action, further details of joint projects are being formulated.

[Translation]

Filling up the Drop out Vacancies

1789. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether various Ministries are filling up the drop out vacancies, reserved for Backward Classes and could not be filled up on the basis of Assistant Grade Examination held in 1993 and 1994; by dereserving these and promoting general candidates;

(b) if so, the number of such vacancies during the last two years in various Ministries/Departments;

(c) whether the Government do not dereserve and carry forwarded the drop out vacancies reserved for SC/ST candidates to the next year; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to carry forward the drop out vacancies reserved for Other Backward Classes to the vacancies reserved for the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). In terms of the extent instructions, vacancies reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are not to be dereserved but are to be carried forward as such for a period of 3 recruitment years or till vacancies are filled by OBC candidates whichever is earlier. The Grade of Assistance in Central Secretariat is decentralised into thirty three cadres and appointment to the grade are made cadrewise by the cadre authorities. Information about implementing the reservation policy of the Government as stated above is not centrally maintained for various recruitment years;

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Instructions already exist for carrying forward the unfilled vacancies reserved for OBCs to the next year.

[English]

Farm Houses

1790. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the policy regarding construction of farm houses in Outer Delhi and the number of such farm houses constructed so far;

(b) whether construction in and around farm houses has been declared unauthorised and demolition carried out; and

(c) if so, the total number of unauthorised constructions in Outer Delhi area and the actual demolitions carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Crude Oil

1791. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC have achieved the target of production of crude oil and natural gas during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the total production of crude oil and natural gas held by ONGC during the above period;

(c) whether there is stagnancy in the production of crude oil and natural gas by ONGC; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to boost crude oil and natural gas exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The targets and production of crude oil and natural gas sales by ONGC during the last three years was as under :

	(Figs. in MMT) Crude Oil		(Figs. in MMm3) Gas Sales	
	Target	Production	Target	Actual
1993-94	24.420	24.215	13240	13371
1994-95	29.349	29.356	13510	13961
1995-96	33.316	31.640	16300	17047

(Targets are set for gas sales only).

Whereas ONGC had achieved natural gas sales targets during the last three years, there was shortfall in achievement of crude oil production target during 1993-94 and 1995-96.

(d) The reasons for shortall in crude oil production targets are :

(i) Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour, not in conformity with earlier predictions.